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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HAVANA 000811

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [EAID](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [CU](#)

SUBJECT: PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE: THOUGHTS ON THE CATHOLIC
CHURCH IN CUBA

Classified By: COM JONATHAN FARRAR FOR REA...

1. (C) The Catholic Church seeks to work under the GOC's radar to rebuild its infrastructure and ecclesiastical ranks. From Cardinal Ortega
2. (C) Over the past two months, COM has had the opportunity to engage with elements of the Catholic Church on a variety of levels, includir
3. (SBU) You Always Have to Give Way: As a nun with 26 years experience in Cuba explained to us, one always gives way to the GOC. Cardinal
4. (SBU) On the local level, the Catholic Church pays great deference to GOC strictures. Earlier this year, three missionary nuns in Matanz
5. (C) And Then Came the Hurricanes: The interaction between the Catholic Church, including its relief arm, Caritas, and the GOC over hurri
6. (SBU) The Lost Generation: Youth programs mostly are anemic, and church attendance by young people reflects this. The Bishop of Santiagu
HAVANA 00000811 002 OF 002
mostly appears sparse. A nun in Matanzas looked back fondly on her time in Camaguey, where she recalled a youth group of 75 or so. She found
7. (C) Migration is Killing Us: Almost all of COM's Catholic Church interlocutors said migration was taking away many of their most educate
8. (SBU) Quiet Diplomacy: When asked about political prisoners, Cardinal Ortega said the Catholic Church prefers to intercede with GOC auth
9. (C) Comment: The Catholic Church is by far the largest island-wide institution with even minimal autonomy from the GOC (the Methodists e
End Comment.
FARRAR